

Message Text

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13/41

ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEA-10 NSC-07 AID-10 DEAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-03 TRSE-00

USIA-15 SCI-06 OMB-01 AGR-20 DODE-00 SS-20 SP-03 L-03

H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 /134 R

DRAFTED BY: S/NM:RHMUNN

APPROVED BY: S/NM:SBVANCE

S/NM:HRWELLMAN

NEA/TUR:BHIRSHORN (DRAFT)

NEA/INS:GIBNEY (DRAFT)

IO/HDC:ENOZIGLIA (DRAFT)

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R 052304Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069704

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR ADDRESSEE)

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS SNAR

SUBJECT: INDIAN OPIUM PRODUCTION

REF: A) ANKARA 2534; B) STATE 26073; C) GENEVA 1426;
D) GENEVA 1442; E. GENEVA 1272

1. THERE ARE NO BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIA ON
OPIUM PRODUCTION. BASIC US POSITION (REF B) WAS CAREFULLY
WORDED TO AVOID SPECIFIC CALL FOR INCREASED INDIAN PRODUC-
TION. THERE IS GENERAL RECOGNITION THAT 1973 SHORTFALL
WAS IN LARGE PART OCCASIONED BY POOR AGRICULTURAL
CONDITIONS, WHICH RESULTED IN FAILURE OF INDIA TO PRODUCE
PLANNED OUTPUTS. (FYI: AREA ORIGINALLY PLANTED FOR
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73 SEASON APPROXIMATELY SAME AS FOR 74.) IN VIEW RISING
DEMAND, THERE WAS GENERAL FEELING THAT IN YEARS AHEAD

INDIA COULD NOT MEET REQUIREMENTS UNLESS MEANS FOUND TO INCREASE YIELD.

2. IN VIEW TURKISH SENSITIVITY AND THAT IN OTHER AREAS WHERE CONTROL IS PROBLEM, OUR FUNDAMENTAL POSITION ON SUBJECT WAS STATED AS US WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT WHATEVER LEVEL OF PRODUCTION INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MIGHT FEEL REQUIRED, PROVIDED ADEQUATE LEVEL OF CONTROL MAINTAINED. COROLLARIES ARE THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO ENCOURAGE NEW PRODUCERS TO ENTER MARKET, AND WE DO NOT WISH SEE INDIA

EXPAND PRODUCTION AT EXPENSE OF ADEQUATE CONTROL. ANSWER, THEN, SEEMS TO BE FINDING WAY TO PRODUCE HIGHER YIELDS WITHOUT EXPANDING ACREAGE, WHICH IS OBJECT OF POPPY STRAW RESEARCH PROGRAM. REFS C AND D REPORTED DISCUSSION OF SUPPLY PROBLEM AT THIRD SPECIAL SESSION AND REF E GIVING TEXT OF US POLICY STATEMENT AT THAT MEETING IS BEING POUCHED TO YOU.

3. INDIA HAS UNDER CULTIVATION ABOUT 50,000 HECTARES THIS YEAR AND INFORMED US IN COURSE DISCUSSION STOCKPILE RELEASES LAST WINTER THAT IT WOULD ENCOUNTER CONTROL PROBLEMS IF NEW NON-CONTIGUOUS AREAS WERE TO BE BROUGHT UNDER CULTIVATION. US POLICY STATEMENT AT GENEVA MEETING INCLUDED FOLLOWING: "WE SHARE INDIA'S CONCERN OVER THE RISKS OF PRECIPITOUSLY INCREASING ACREAGE FOR OPIUM AND SUPPORT INDIA'S DESIRE TO FULLY EXPLOIT EXISTING ACREAGE AND TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM EXTRACTION OF OPIATES FROM AVAILABLE ACREAGE." THE INCB, AS TREATY ORGAN, KEEPS WATCH OVER CONTROLS OVER LEGAL OPIUM PRODUCTION AND, AS YOU KNOW, THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY VISITED INDIA IN DECEMBER 1973 FOR CONSULTATIONS ON THAT SUBJECT. (SEE REPORT IN GENEVA A-79, MARCH 1, 1974.)

4. WE RECOGNIZE THAT OUR POINT OF ACHIEVING INCREASED YIELD FROM SAME AREA MAY BE TOO FINE TO CONVINCE MOST TURKS. BUT ESSENCE IS THAT CONTROL SHOULD NOT BE RELAXED IN ANY WAY AND, IN FACT, SHOULD BE IMPROVED WHEREVER
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POSSIBLE. TURKISH RECORD LEADS TO GREAT PUBLIC APPREHENSION ABOUT PRODUCTION IN AREA WHICH HISTORICALLY SCENE OF SUBSTANTIAL DIVERSION. RESEARCH PROGRAM, SUPPORTED BY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, IS EFFORT TO FIND SOLUTION TO SUPPLY PROBLEM WHICH ENTAILS SUBSTANTIALLY SMALLER RISKS. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPIUM, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AGRICULTURAL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE069704
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/NM:RHMUNN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740080-0666, D740078-0868
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740461/aaaacedd.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) ANKARA 2534; B) STATE 26073; C) G, ENEVA 1426;
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN OPIUM PRODUCTION
TAGS: SNAR, EAGR, IN, TU
To: ANKARA GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005